

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT

by

GOVERNOR LUTHER H. HODGES

I will make this comment on the so-called lunch counter demonstrations which began in North Carolina about a month ago and have since spread to several other states. As I have previously stated, I do not think these demonstrations do any good or in the final analysis will even serve to accomplish the objectives of the demonstrators. We have been fortunate in North Carolina in avoiding some of the extreme incidents which have occurred in other states. In this connection, and speaking solely for my concern for law and order, I want to make it clear that I have no sympathy whatsoever for any group of people who deliberately engage in activities which any reasonable person can see will result in a breakdown of law and order as well as interference with the normal and proper operation of a private business.

Some weeks ago, Chancellor Blackwell made a talk to the student assembly of Woman's College. I recently saw a copy of that and I thought that Chancellor Blackwell had expressed, from the point of view of the college administrator, the fundamental concerns which college students should carefully take into account. Last week I sent a copy of Chancellor Blackwell's comments to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the President of each of the State-supported institutions of higher education, saying: "I believe that Chancellor Blackwell's action in making these observations to his students deserves your very careful consideration."